

# THE MEDICAL NEWS AND LIBRARY.

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MALGAIGNE'S OPERATIVE SURGERY, TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

### MEDICAL PROGRESS.

*State Medical Convention of Indiana.*—A convention of the physicians of Indiana was held at Indianapolis on the 6th and 7th of June last, and organized by the appointment of the following officers:—

*President.*—Dr. L. Dunlap, of Marion county.

*Vice-Presidents.*—Drs. N. Johnson, of Cambridge; T. Ryan, of Anderson; J. W. Florer, of Montgomery county, and C. Wallace, of Hendricks county.

*Secretaries.*—Drs. J. S. Bobbs, and A. M. Hunt, of Indianapolis.

It was resolved to be expedient to establish a State Medical Society, and a constitution and by-laws were reported and adopted. Among the resolutions adopted by the convention were the following:—

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to memorialize the Legislature of the State upon the subject of homicidal insanity, asking the enactment of a law requiring that, in all cases where the plea of insanity is set up as an excuse for crime, the question of insanity shall be first and

separately tried and decided, by a commission of lunacy.

*Resolved*, That the convention recommend the formation of county and district Medical Associations, as tending to elevate the standard of medicine, promote harmony amongst its members, and benefit the community at large.

*Resolved*, That the convention adopt the national code of ethics, and that we recommend its adoption to the various county or district Medical Associations as their standard for professional intercourse.

*Whereas*, The medical profession in general have been accustomed heretofore to bestow professional services upon clergymen and their families, gratuitously, and have considered it a pleasure so to do; *And whereas*, There is no class of our fellow-citizens, with the same influence at command, who so readily countenance quackery and patent medicines, both by signature and influence; therefore,

*Resolved*, That we will hereafter demand remuneration from all clergymen, as from other patients, who, in any manner, are known to lend their influence to irregu-

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lar practitioners, or to the dissemination of nostrums."

The convention resolved itself into the State Medical Society, and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

*President*.—Dr. Cornet, of Ripley co.

*Vice-Presidents*.—Drs. A. Clapp, of New Albany; N. Johnson, of Cambridge; L. Dunlap, of Indianapolis, and Farquher, of Wabash.

*Secretary*.—Dr. J. S. Bobbs, of Indianapolis.

*Assistant Secretary*.—Dr. A. M. Hunt, of Indianapolis.

*Corresponding Secretary*.—Dr. T. Bulard, of Indianapolis.

*Treasurer*.—Dr. J. L. Mothershead, of Indianapolis.

*Librarian*.—Dr. Jemison, of Indianapolis.

*Standing Committee on Admission*.—Drs. V. Kersey, Milton, Wayne county; C. Parry, of Indianapolis; T. Ryan, of Anderson; J. W. Florer, of Alamo, Montgomery county, and A. J. Mullen, of Napoleon, Ripley county.

The officers being elected, the following standing committees were announced:—

*Executive Committee*.—Drs. Sanders, Parry, Smith, J. Hunt, and Mothershead.

*On Finance*.—Drs. Florer, Johnson, of Marion, Hutchison, Ryan, and Harrison.

*On Publication*.—Drs. Bobbs, Gall, Jameson, Nutt, and Wallace.

*On Medical Ethics*.—Drs. Gall, N. Johnson, Mullen, Smith, and Wishard.

The Society proceeded to elect delegates to the American Medical Association for the ensuing year, which resulted in the choice of Drs. Mullen, Sanders, and Mothershead.

*Medical Association of South Central New York*.—This Association held its third annual session at Cortlandville, on the 5th, 6th, and 7th of June last. Various interesting papers and cases were read. Among the former, were papers by Dr. Caleb Green, of Homer, on Medical Statistics; by Dr. J. W. Robbins on Epidemic Fever in Sempronius and Summer Hill; by Dr. Eastman, of Oswego, on Fractures; and by Dr. R. Wilcox, on Malarial Remittent Fever.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

*President*, Dr. P. B. Brooks; *Vice-Presidents*, Drs. R. Wilcox and T. Waldo; *Recording Secretary*, Dr. C. Green; *As-*

*sistant Secretary*, Dr. J. H. Jerome; *Corresponding Secretary*, Dr. C. E. Washburn; *Treasurer*, Dr. H. N. Eastman. Dr. Geo. Burr and Dr. Bradford were appointed delegates to the American Medical Association.

*Medical Society of the State of North Carolina*.—A convention of the physicians of the State of North Carolina assembled in Raleigh, on the 16th of April last, and organized a State Medical Society. The following are the officers of the society for the present year:—

*President*, Dr. E. Strudwick; *Vice-Presidents*, Drs. F. J. Haywood, C. E. Johnson, Jas. E. Williamson, and W. G. Thomas; *Corresponding and Recording Secretary*, W. H. McKee; *Treasurer*, W. G. Hill.

The Society adopted the code of ethics of the American Medical Association, with the exception of the following paragraph: "In obstetrical and important surgical cases, which give rise to unusual fatigue, anxiety, and responsibility, it is just that the fees accruing therefrom should be awarded to the physician who officiates."

*College of Physicians of Philadelphia*.—At a meeting of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, the following were elected delegates to the American Medical Association: Drs. Casper Morris, Rene La Roche, Charles D. Meigs, William H. Klapp, W. S. W. Ruschenberger, J. Rodman Paul, Charles Evans, B. H. Coates, W. Byrd Page, F. Gurney Smith, Lewis Rodman, Samuel L. Hollingsworth.

The following were elected delegates to the Convention for Revising the Pharmacopœia of the United States: Joseph Carson, Henry Bond, Francis West.

*Philadelphia County Medical Society*.—At the quarterly meeting of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, held January 15th, 1850, the following were elected delegates to the State Society: Drs. W. L. Atlee, Henry Bond, John Bell, D. Francis Condie, Gouverneur Emerson, George Fox, Henry Gibbons, Hugh L. Hodge, Isaac Hays, Edward Hallowell, Professor S. Jackson, Samuel Jackson, Joseph Klapp, Charles D. Meigs, J. Forsyth Meigs, George W. Norris, John Neill, Isaac Parrish, Wm. Byrd Page, H. S. Patterson, Wm. Pepper, M. Reeve, Alfred Stillé, George B. Wood, F. West, Benjamin S. Janney, Wilson

Jewell, John D. Logan, Wm. Mayburry, Isaac Remington, Joseph Warrington, T. H. Yardley, A. Helfenstein, T. F. Betton, John M. Pugh.

And the following were elected delegates to the American Medical Association: Drs. W. L. Atlee, Henry Bond, John Bell, D. Francis Condie, Isaac Hays, Gouverneur Emerson, Wm. R. Grant, Prof. S. Jackson, S. Jackson, Joseph Klapp, J. H. B. McClellan, G. W. Norris, Isaac Parrish, Wm. Pepper, Alfred Stillé, Francis West, J. Curran.

*Erie County (Pa.) Medical Society.*—At a stated meeting of this Society, held in Erie on the 8th of January, 1850, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Dr. F. W. Miller, *President*; Dr. A. Beebe, *Vice-President*; Dr. L. Strong, *Recording Secretary*; Dr. J. L. Stewart, *Corresponding Secretary*; Dr. Langsdorf, *Treasurer*; Drs. A. Beebe, J. L. Stewart, and J. L. Hall, *Censors*.

Dr. Wm. Flint was appointed delegate to the annual meeting of the American Medical Association, at Cincinnati, on the first Tuesday of May next, and Drs. C. F. Perkins, F. W. Miller, and Wm. W. Wood delegates to the State Association to meet in Philadelphia next April.

*Mercer County (Pa.) Medical Society.*—The physicians of Mercer county, assembled in convention, formed themselves into the "Mercer County Medical Society," and at a subsequent meeting held in October last, they adopted a constitution, making the society subject and auxiliary to the "Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania." This constitution was signed by seventeen members, and was approved by the Censors of the 5th and 6th Districts, as appointed by the State Society. The officers elected were: *President*, Dr. Samuel Axtell; *Vice-President*, D. B. Packard; *Secretary*, Geo. W. Baskin; *Treasurer*, John P. Hosack. At their last meeting, on the 1st day of January, 1850, Dr. John T. Ray was chosen delegate to the "Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania" (with Dr. G. W. Baskin as alternate); and Dr. James W. Grier to the "American Medical Association" for the coming year. On the same day, Dr. Geo. W. Baskin gave notice that he would present to the Society for its examination, when it assembled in April next,

a case in which osseous ankylosis had occurred in every articulation in the body but one.

*Michigan Medical Association.*—The delegates to the second annual meeting of the "Michigan Medical Association" assembled in the "Medical College" at 10 o'clock A. M. The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. John Cadman, when the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

On motion, Drs. Ackley, Fish, and Wells were appointed a committee to memorialize the Legislature of this State upon the vending of adulterated and spurious drugs and medicines.

The Association proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted as follows, viz:—

*For President*—Dr. Samuel Denton, of Ann Arbor.

*1st Vice-President*—Dr. Geo. W. Gorham, of Jackson.

*2d Vice-President*—Dr. S. R. Arnold, of Monroe.

*Secretaries*—Dr. De Laskie Miller, of Flint; Dr. Geo. W. Fish, of Jackson.

*Treasurer*—Dr. Abram Sager, of Ann Arbor.

Dr. Cadman, on retiring from the chair, delivered a neat and appropriate address, and concluded by introducing Dr. Field, who came forward and read the annual address.

On motion of Dr. Fish, the thanks of the Association were tendered to Dr. Cadman, for the able and gentlemanly manner in which he had discharged the duties incumbent on him as the presiding officer of this Association.

The President then announced the standing committees as follows, viz:—

*On Arrangements*—Drs. Gunn, Sager, and Wells.

*On Practical Medicine*—Drs. M'Naughton, Sagee, and Higby.

*On Surgery*—Drs. Gunn, Tanner, and Newcomb.

*On Obstetrics*—Drs. Graham, Arnold, and Brigham.

*On Education*—Drs. Douglass, Fish, and Cadman.

On motion, Drs. Sager, of Washtenaw, Miller, of Geneseo, and Camburn, of Lenawea, were appointed a committee to prepare a report for the next meeting of the



Association, on the medical botany of this State.

The following were elected delegates to the "American Medical Association," viz: Drs. John Cadman, Samuel Denton, Geo. W. Fish, De Laskie Miller, and William Wier.

The next meeting will be held at Ann Arbour, on the second Wednesday of October next, at 10 o'clock A. M.

On motion, the Association adjourned.

SAMUEL DENTON, *President*.

DE LASKIE MILLER, } *Secretaries*.  
GEORGE W. FISH, }

Ann Arbour, Jan. 16, 1850.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

### DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

*Suits for Malpractice.*—We have received a copy of the very able report recently made to the Erie County (Pa.) Medical Society, by a committee of that body, on the prevalence of suits for malpractice. It should be widely circulated, and we shall endeavour to give at least a portion of it in our next number.

*Ovariectomy.*—This operation has recently been performed twice by Dr. Deane, of Greenfield, Mass., once by Dr. Samuel Parkman, of Boston, and once by Dr. H. J. Bigelow, of Boston.

*Re-vaccination.*—Dr. Fisher, in a paper on this subject read before the Suffolk District Medical Society, gives the following conclusions as satisfactorily proved by the statistical facts he has collected:—

1st. That one single vaccination does not, for all time, in all cases, deprive the system of its susceptibility of variolous disease, and,

2d. That one or more re-vaccinations *do*; and that, consequently, a physician should recommend re-vaccination when questioned as to its necessity.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Journ.*, Jan. 23, 1850.

*School of Practical Chemistry.*—Dr. ALFRED L. KENNEDY has resigned the professorship of Chemistry in the Philadelphia College of Medicine, and intends devoting himself to the private teaching of chemistry. He has opened a laboratory in Haines street above Sixth street. His plan is deserving of

the attention of medical students and others, who desire to attain a knowledge of practical chemistry. The capabilities of the gentleman as a teacher are, we are informed, of a very high order.

*Cryptogamic Theory of Cholera.*—It ought not to be lost sight of that the theory of the connection of epidemic disorders with fungi was proposed by Dr. W. CLAY WALLACE, of New York, in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, so long ago as Sept. 5th, 1845.

*Obituary Record.*—Died in October last, at his residence in Woodstock, Vt., JOSEPH GALLUP, M. D., in the 81st year of his age. He was well known as the author of a work on the Epidemics of Vermont, and a Treatise on the Practice of Medicine.

— On the 18th of August last, Dr. J. E. McNAIRY, aged 31 years, superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum of Tennessee.

### FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

*Treatment of Hooping-Cough.*—Dr. PARESI has published experiments of his made during an epidemic of hooping-cough, which reigned in the Lommeline. He had in view to ascertain the relative value of the various treatments which have been proposed for that disease. Out of one hundred and twenty-two patients, one hundred and eleven were from three to ten years old, nine from ten to thirty, and two were fifty years old. Forty-eight of these were treated by the ordinary method; twenty-seven took cochineal; nineteen, laurel-water; six, vegetable acids; and twenty-two were treated by a mixed method. All those who were treated with cochineal, or the vegetable acids, recovered without exception. The result was almost the same with those who took laurel-water, and out of the remaining sixty who were treated either by the ordinary or mixed method, eighteen died.—*Lancet*, Dec. 22, from *L'Union Médicale*.

*Collodion in Burns.*—M. VALLETTE, surgeon to the Hôtel Dieu in Lyons, uses collodion extensively in the treatment of burns. The first effect produced by its application is refrigeration; it also contracts the infiltrated tissues, and effectually excludes the air. It has been observed, moreover, that the resulting cicatrization is more regular

than under other forms of dressing.—*Prov. Med. and Surg. Journ.*, Dec. 26.

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*On the Influence of Pregnancy upon the progress of Phthisis.*—It is an opinion of very ancient date, and, we believe, of pretty general acceptance, that the course of phthisis is modified, or may even be suspended, by the occurrence of pregnancy. This opinion has, however, been contested in some quarters, and, among others, by Andral and Louis. Latterly, M. GRISOLLE (in a memoir presented to the Academy of Medicine), has collected twenty-seven cases of phthisis coinciding with pregnancy. Of these twenty-seven cases, there were only three in which the rational signs of consumption preceded the pregnancy. In the remainder, the first symptoms of the disease appeared during the early months of gestation. These facts are sufficiently demonstrative of the commencement of tubercular disease under conditions generally thought to be adverse to its manifestation. M. Grisolle has further ascertained, by statistical inquiry, that, so far from pregnancy delaying the fatal termination, the disease would appear to progress more rapidly in pregnant than in other females. In fourteen cases examined in reference to the duration of phthisis, he finds the average to be ten months, while in non-pregnant women it appears, according to Louis, to be fifteen months. In so far, therefore, as these few observations go, there appears to be no foundation for the opinions generally entertained.—*Ibid.*

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*Treatment of Hydrocephalus.*—Every one is acquainted with the difficulty of finding any effectual treatment for this disease, especially for that most dangerous form known as "tubercular meningitis." M. Hahn, physician to the hospital at Aix, recommends strongly the following method, in cases where the disease has already made some progress before the medical attendant has been called in. Dr. Hahn's method consists in employing tartar emetic ointment in friction on the scalp, which is previously shaved. The ointment is rubbed in for ten minutes at a time, and a piece of linen besmeared with it is then placed on the head. The frictions are renewed every two hours, until the pustules begin to appear. The effects are, of course, very severe. The whole scalp becomes inflamed, and nume-

rous small ulcers are formed, which heal with difficulty, and generally destroy the points of the scalp in which they were situated. The author affirms that he has employed this severe, but absolutely necessary mode of treatment, with success for the last twenty years, having thereby saved more than a dozen children, whose lives would have been inevitably sacrificed but for it.—*Med. Times*, Dec. 22, 1849.

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*Gutta Percha Bougies.*—From some cases published in the *Medical Gazette*, it would appear that the use of these bougies has been followed at St. George's Hospital by unpleasant consequences, the bougies having unrolled and a portion remained in the bladder. M. Civiale considers that the accident probably depended on the manner in which the gutta percha bougies are manufactured in England. They are made by rolling a band or strip of the substance round a stylet, and then applying heat. Hence, they are subject to unroll. In France, the line of puncture runs along the whole length of the bougie, and accidents of the kind mentioned by Mr. Hawkins never occur. M. Civiale states also, that, so far from having observed any irritation produced by the contact of gutta percha bougies with the mucous membrane, he has found that they remain in the urethra a much longer time without inconvenience than those of Indian rubber.—*Ibid.*

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*Contraction cured by Vapour.*—A curious case of this kind occurred a short time back at the Hôtel Dieu, in the practice of M. Jobert, which is worthy of notice, rather from the simplicity of the means employed to relieve, than from the nature or symptoms of the malady. A young girl had pricked the palm of the hand with a needle. Soon after this slight accident, contraction of the flexor muscles set in, and after three months had arrived at such a pitch, that the nails seemed as if they would be driven through the skin. Almost every imaginable remedy had been tried without success, when M. Jobert thought of trying the effects of a vapour douche. The first application gave relief, and after the second one, the power of extension was so complete, that the patient appeared to be completely cured.—*Ibid.*

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*Contractility of the Spleen.*—Some in-

teresting experiments on this subject have been recently performed by the Biological Society, at the request of M. Rayer.

From the researches of M. Kolliker, and, before him, of many other physiologists, we know that muscular tissue is composed of a series of elongated cellules, with an elongated nucleus running parallel to that of the cellule. The same author has also described this arrangement in many organs, or parts of organs, where muscular tissue had not been thought to exist. He has found them, for example, in the nipple and its areola—in the arteries, veins, lymphatics, in the Fallopian tubes, in the spleen, &c. Now, if these cellules were really of a muscular nature, it is evident that they must be contractile. M. Wagner has submitted this to the test of experiment, and found that the spleen contracted evidently under the influence of galvanism. Indeed, M. Defermon had previously directed attention to the singular contortions of this organ produced by strychnine. The experiments performed at the suggestion of M. Rayer, and relative to this interesting question, were made on dogs. One of these animals was poisoned with strychnine, the spleen having been first exposed. The organ was carefully measured, and, when the convulsions appeared, it was measured again. The volume of the organ was very slightly diminished—not more so than might be accounted for by difference of circulation; but the surface of the organ had evidently undergone a remarkable change. It was crisped, and the edges had assumed another form. This experiment was not very conclusive. The spleen of another dog was, therefore, exposed and measured, after which a strong electrical current was directed on it. After a few minutes, the long diameter had diminished by two or three centimetres. The experiment was repeated several times with the same results. On passing the current *across* the organ, its transverse diameter became diminished. The pedicle of the spleen was now cut across, and it was suspended by its larger end from one of the conductors of the machine. On applying the other wire, which was done more than twenty times, the spleen was seen to ascend, and to become twisted in the most evident manner.—*Med. Times*, Dec. 29, 1849.

*Important Variety in the course of the*

*Internal Pudic Arteries.*—In demonstrating the anatomy of the perineum in an adult male subject, Mr. Coote met with the following very important variety in the course of the internal pudic on both sides. After re-entering the pelvis through the lesser ischiatic notch, the artery, instead of ascending, as usual, behind the ramus of the ischium and the pubes, passed on by the side of the rectum towards the so-called triangular ligament, and then gave off its three terminal branches, namely, one to the bulb of the urethra, another to the crus penis; and, lastly, the dorsal artery of the penis. Had lithotomy been performed upon this subject, the pudic artery would have been unavoidably divided; and it might possibly have been cut through in laying open a fistula in ano.—*Med. Times*, Nov. 17.

*Anomaly of the Cervical Vertebra.*—M. Dubreil, Professor of Anatomy at the University of Montpellier, relates a very rare case of anomaly of the cervical vertebra. It consists in the existence of a supernumerary vertebra, and occurred in the person of a Swiss drum-major, whom M. Dubreil had often remarked during his lifetime, on account of his extraordinary stature. A careful examination of the skeleton leads the author to conclude that the anomaly consists in a duplication of the sixth vertebra of the neck. M. Geoffroy St. Hilaire never observed a case of this kind, and it appears the only one to be found in the annals of medicine. I remember, however, when a student at Edinburgh, that a well-known member of the Medical Society, remarkable for his height, was said to possess a similar deformity.—*Ibid.*

*New Method of diagnosing Biliary Calculi.*—In a case of jaundice, M. Martin-Solon found that, on pressing the hand below the region of the gall-bladder, and, on directing the patient to make two or three expulsive and inspiratory efforts, he could feel the gall-bladder impinge on the fingers, and could perceive a sort of crepitus produced by the friction of the gall-stones on each other. The crepitus could be perceived also by the stethoscope.—*Ibid.*, from *L'Union Méd.*, Nov. 15.

*Mercurial Injections into Glandular Structures.*—M. MICHEL, chief demonstra-



tor of anatomy at Strasburg, has communicated to the Academy a new method of injecting mercury into the minute vascular ramifications of the various glands of the frame. The cause of the frequent failures in attempting this injection is, according to the author, the rupture of the vessels, which give way under the slightest pressure. This rupture has generally been attributed to the weight of the mercury, but is really caused by the secretions lying in the vessels, which prevent the progress of the mercury through the tubes and the terminal extremities of the glands. M. Michel, therefore, thought that the difficulty lay in finding a liquid which would dislodge the secretions, and he has prepared one which he injects into the duct of the gland. By gentle pressure he causes it to leave the structure again, and the injection and pressure are repeated until the liquid reappears in its primary limpid state, at which time the injection of mercury may commence. The author presented to the Academy several beautifully injected preparations, for which he had used this method.—*Ibid.*

*Cretinism.*—The Minister of the Interior lately presented to the King of Sardinia the members of the committee appointed by his late father, in 1845, to investigate the causes of cretinism, and the remedies which might be employed against it. The committee had their report before the king. This work—a result of four years' labour, and published both in French and Italian—comprises, in seven chapters, the history, description, classification, geographical distribution, statistics, and causes of cretinism, with the means best calculated to combat the disease. The king was much shocked on learning that more than 7000 of his subjects are labouring under this sad degeneration, which is spread over twenty-two of the Sardinian provinces.—*Ibid.*

*Death from Chloroform.*—An inquest was held on Wednesday last, at the Crown Inn, Pride Hill, Shrewsbury, before G. Gordon, Esq., coroner, and a respectable jury, on the body of Mrs. Jones. The deceased was a patient of W. J. Clement, Esq., surgeon, of Shrewsbury.

Mr. Clement deposed that the deceased was a patient of his, and that she came to town on the Saturday previously, from the neighbourhood of the Craven Arms, to un-

dergo the operation of the removal of the eyeball, which was degenerated; he saw her on Tuesday, and Wednesday morning was fixed upon for the operation. About one o'clock on that day, Mr. Clement commenced the operation. There were present Mr. Heathcote, surgeon, Mr. Clement's two pupils, and Miss Wilson, the landlady with whom the deceased lodged. He administered chloroform to the deceased, the operation being exceedingly painful; she was fully aware of the effect of chloroform. He gave her but a small dose to commence with, imbibed from a sponge, and then commenced the operation. Finding that did not make her insensible, about a drachm more was poured on the sponge, which she inhaled again for a few seconds. He then went on with the operation, and shortly afterwards heard a peculiar sound, which he could not describe, and she died in a moment; all the attempts to rouse her proved ineffectual. She spoke in Welsh before she died, but so quickly that he did not know what she said; he had no doubt that she died from the effects of the chloroform, which produced apoplexy. He had given patients three times the quantity that was administered to the deceased.

Mr. J. N. Heathcote deposed that he was present on the death of the deceased, assisting in the operation, and that the evidence of Mr. Clement was correct; he added that he mentioned to the deceased that the chloroform would ease her from her pain, and she was quite willing to take it; he was holding her when she died; she died quite suddenly, and without a struggle—as quick as if killed by prussic acid.

The jury returned a verdict of "Died of apoplexy, caused by inhaling one drachm of chloroform."—*Prov. Med. and Surgical Journ.*, Dec. 12, from *Eddowes' Shrewsbury Journ.*

*Death from Chloroform.*—A death from chloroform lately occurred in Berlin, and made a great sensation. A young lady died two days after an unsuccessful attempt had been made to extract a tooth while under anæsthetic influence—the reaction, it is said, operating upon the brain. The dentist has been examined before the judicial authorities, and charged with having administered the drug without the presence of a surgeon or physician, as required by law; not that such authorization would have

saved the patient; but "the law allows it, and the court awards;" and the effect will be to check the indiscriminate and indiscreet use of chloroform, which is here as fashionable as it seems to be in your northern capital. It has also given rise to many discussions among scientific men. Langenbeck, the successor of Dieffenbach in the University Clinic, and formerly professor at Kiel, has availed himself of the opportunity to publish his "experiences" on the matter. He has used chloroform in all ages—in the child of a few hours old, and in patients of eighty years of age. He has had but one death from it, and that in a sailor with comminuted fracture of the ankle, requiring amputation. While tying the artery, Langenbeck observed black blood and gas bubbles issuing from the wound, and the patient died half an hour after the operation. The same occurrence also lately took place in *La Charité*, during the operation for excision of the lower jaw. On dissection, much black and frothy blood was found in the right heart. By the way, Professor Baumgartner announces some illustrations of the cure of diseases of the respiratory organs by chloroform.—*Medical Times*, Dec. 29.

*Puerperal Fever*.—It has been again proposed, in France, to use injections of tepid water into the uterus, to control the fatal effects of the metro-peritonitis following labour. Dr. Roche advocated this treatment in 1844, in the *Gazette Médicale*, stating that he had met with great success by adhering to it, and M. Gensoul, of Lyons, gave it as his opinion, a few days ago, in *L'Union Médicale*, that phlebitis of the uterus is often brought on by the detritus and clots stagnating in the womb, and that warm douching, in removing these, contributed largely in keeping off the fatal effects of the uterine inflammation.—*Lancet*, Dec. 15th.

*Cholera in Belgium*.—According to an official report to the Municipal Council of Brussels, the cholera prevailed from the 24th of April to the 27th of December, 1849, during which period there were 1264 cases, of which 1013 proved fatal, being a mortality of 80 per cent.

*Sugar in the Perspiration of Cholera Patients*.—M. POIRSON, one of the house-surgeons at the Salpêtrière, has lately verified

the fact brought forward by M. Doyère, of the existence of grape sugar in the perspiration of cholera patients. An aged woman, who died of the disease, had presented a viscous cutaneous secretion, part of which was removed from the face. This was mixed with distilled water, and treated by the precipitated tartrate of potash and copper; and when redissolved by potash, it reduced, at 212° Fahr., so large a quantity of oxide of copper, as to induce the idea that the viscosity of the secretion was produced by the presence of the sugar. The experiment was repeated several times on the same solution, and always yielded the same results.—*Lancet*, Dec. 15.

*Cholera in Toronto*.—The official report of the Board of Health gives the total number of cases of cholera in Toronto this season as 773. Fatal, 469; of these cases 380 were males, of which 232 were fatal; females, 393, fatal 237.

*Infusoria in the Dejections of Cholera*. By M. POUCHET.—Leuwenhoek observed animalcules of the species *Vibrio* in the evacuations of dysenteric patients. M. Donné and others have made similar observations with regard to cholera. M. Pouchet confirms these observations by the discovery of an extremely minute animalcule—the *Vibrio rugula* of Müller and De Schrank. Its movements are sudden and rapid. A practiced eye can readily detect the motions of this animal among a crowd of other granules or corpuscles. They have only been observed by M. Pouchet in characteristic rice-water evacuations recently voided; they have not been seen in the vomited matters.—*London Med. Gaz.*, Sept. 28th, from *Comptes Rendus*, April, 1849.

*Cholera in the Horse*.—A communication has been addressed to the editor of *L'Union Médicale*, on cholera in horses, by M. Liegey, of Rambervilliers. It is stated that both cholera and the epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis have attacked many horses. One case is described, but not very fully; the symptoms of the developed malady are said to have been, suppression of the urine, borborygma, flux, rapid emaciation, extreme tenderness in the region of the lumbar vertebrae, and trembling of the limbs.—*Med. Times*.